When a Society Falls Under God's Curse

(Godless Lifestyles in the Last Days)
Isaiah 2:22-4:1
11-1-2023

Introduction: Isaiah chapter 3 is positioned in between the context describing the End Time Day of the LORD (2:10-22) and the Millennial Kingdom (4:2-6); While the events immediately describe the peril that was to befall Judah and Jerusalem leading up to the Babylonian Captivity, they foretell of events to occur in the Last Days prior to Christ's Return to establish His Rule & Reign.

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

I. The LORD <u>Removes all Securities & Crutches</u> that the wicked rely upon (2:22-3:4)

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

II. Society <u>Loses its Civil Control</u> and Anarchy Reigns (3:5a)

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

III. Children <u>Disrespect</u> all forms of <u>Authority</u> (3:5b)

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

IV. <u>Mature Male Leadership is Absent</u> from the Home and Society (3:4, 6-7, 12)

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V. People <u>Blatantly Defy God</u> to His Face in <u>Word</u> and <u>Action</u> (v.8)

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

VI. People wear a <u>Shameful Appearance</u> and <u>Shameless Public Sin</u> (v.9)

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

VII. The Law of <u>Sowing & Reaping</u> goes into <u>Merciless Effect</u> (v.9b-15)

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

VIII. Fashionable Women <u>Lose all of their Smug Attractiveness</u> (v.16-24)

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IX. Women go <u>Husbandless</u> due to Death & Destruction (v.25-4:1)

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Isaiah 2:22-4:1
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Introduction: Isaiah was both a prophet of DOOM and a prophet of HOPE.
Isaiah chapter 3 is positioned in between the context describing the End Time Day of the LORD (2:10-22) and the Millennial Kingdom (4:2-6); While the events immediately describe the peril that was to befall Judah and Jerusalem leading up to the Babylonian Captivity, they foretell of events to occur in the Last Days prior to Christ's Return to establish His Rule & Reign.

In Isaiah 3 (and throughout the book), there is both a near and distant fulfillment intended. Both a contemporary and an eschatological application. Both an immediate and an ultimate prophecy.

God gives warning to Israel prior to the Babylonian captivity regarding what is coming, with an ultimate view toward end-time Israel.

In the Law (Deut. 28), God warned the nation of Israel regarding the cursings that would fall upon her ifs he should forget God's Law and rebel against Him.

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

I. The LORD <u>Removes all Securities & Crutches</u> that the wicked rely upon (2:22-3:4)

2:22
God admonishes us to **"cease ye from man"** – stop highly regarding or trusting in man whose very life is dependent upon mere air for survival.

Why should we esteem mere mortals? We certainly should love people and respect them, but never trust in flesh. Trust in the living God.

Isaiah is saying, "Why will you trust in frailty?"

3:1
"The Lord (Adonai) the LORD (Jehovah) of hosts" – God is described as the sovereign Lord and the mighty commander of angelic armies.

The **"Stay and the staff" –** both words refer to that which one would lean on or support himself with. All human support will ultimately fail. "In man we trust" will work no longer.

Certainly we do benefit from the goods and services that people provide, but ultimately we must trust God.

In the future Day of the LORD, the basics of bread and water (v. 1), the protection of the **"mighty man, and the man of war"**. . . the wisdom of the prophet, prudent and ancient. . . the great leaders and advisors and gifted spokesmen will be of no more use.

3:4
Manasseh was 12 years old when he began to reign.
In place of competent leaders, God will put children (lads) for princes and infants for rulership. God will put in incompetent leaders so that Israel will be humbled even more.

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

II. Society <u>Loses its Civil Control</u> and Anarchy Reigns (3:5a)

3:5a
The Lord Jesus warned of such Tribulation in the Last Days (Mt. 24).

Trouble from neighbors and even from loved ones will abound.

Luke 21:16-24 - And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and [some] of you shall they cause to be put to death.
17 And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake.
18 But there shall not an hair of your head perish.
19 In your patience possess ye your souls.
20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.
21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.
22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.
23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.
24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

III. Children <u>Disrespect</u> all forms of <u>Authority</u> (3:5b)

3:5b

Children are commanded to honor their father and mother, but when a society falls under God's curse, the children dishonor their parents.

Children being disobedient to parents and teenage rebellion are marks of the end times (2 Tim. 3:2).

Never before in human history has there been more rebellion against authority than today.

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

IV. <u>Mature Male Leadership is Absent</u> from the Home and Society (3:4, 6-7, 12)

3:6
In the future, people will be so desperate that they will offer rulership to anyone who has a garment.

3:7
"Conditions of anarchy were to be so bad that no one would accept a position of authority over the people" (John MacArthur, study Bible note)

Lack of male leadership is increasingly apparent today in the home, church, and government. When the women leave their domestic roles and responsibilities and usurp authority over men, you can mark it down – that society has come under the curse of God.

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

V. People <u>blatantly defy God</u> to His Face in <u>Word</u> and <u>Action</u> (v.8)

v. 8
"Their <u>tongue</u> and their <u>doings</u> are against the Lord" – All sin is ultimately against the Lord, but here God is describing words and actions that are directly targeted against God.

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

VI. People wear a <u>Shameful Appearance</u> and <u>Shameless Public Sin</u> (v.9)

v. 9
While it is true that man looks at the outward appearance and God looks at the heart, some people wear their heart on their countenance. You can see their wickedness by their outward appearance.

Christians ought to look like Christians. These so-called Christian rock and rap artists have a look on their album covers that testifies against them.

We don't have to look like the world in order tow in the world.

Sodom didn't sin in secret but out in the open streets (Gen. 19), and God destroyed them in one night.

Today, many people make no effort to conceal their sin. It's becoming more out in the open, in your face, shameless sexual immorality and moral wickedness.

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

VII. The Law of <u>Sowing & Reaping</u> goes into <u>Merciless Effect</u> (v.9b-15)

Gal. 6:7 – "Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

VIII. Fashionable Women <u>Lose all of their Smug Attractiveness</u> (v.16-24)

v. 16
God describes women with outstretched necks and seductive eyes to see who they can catch.

Some countries (like Greece, France, and Sweden) have a reputation for having women who come up to a man (even if the man is with his wife) and say, "Do you have some time to spend with me?"

"Mincing as they go" – "Ornamental chains about the ankles necessitated shorter steps and produced tinkling sounds to attract attention" (MacArthur note).

"When women cultivate beauty for beauty's sake, they thereby reflect the moral decay of the nations and detract from the glory of God. Rather than emphasizing outward apparel and activities (vv. 16-24), ladies should cultivate the beauty of the inner person (1 Tim. 2:9, 10; 1 Pet. 3:3-4). (MacArthur note)

vv. 19-23
In Old Testament times all jewelry in Israel was acquired from the pagans.

vv. 16-24
All the bracelets, earrings, nose rings, ornaments, chains, fancy head coverings, purses, highly polished mirrors, mascara, sexy clothing, and perfumes will be stripped away in God's day of judgment. Note verse 24.

v. 24

<u>Perfume</u> would change to a <u>stink</u>.

<u>Chain</u> would change to a <u>rope</u>.

<u>Hair</u> would change to <u>baldness</u>.

<u>Stomacher</u> would change to <u>sackcloth</u>.

Beauty would change to burning.

When a sinful society falls under God's curse...

IX. Women go Husbandless due to Death & Destruction (v.25-4:1)

4:1
In the day of the Lord, particularly due to the battle of Armageddon, God will "Judge wicked
women indirectly by allowing a slaughtering of males, thereby producing a shortage of husbands" (MacArthur note)

At the time of the end, there will be a very small remnant of Israelite men saved (144,000 sealed after the Rapture and during the Day of the Lord – Rev. 7). Those **"recorded for life in Jerusalem"** (NASV) will be spared death (Is. 4:3)

Conclusion:

How do we get out from God's curse?
By putting your faith in the One Who bore your curse (Galatians 3:13)